

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 17-24 were pending, all of which stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs. The rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, was based on the argument that the scope of Claims 17-24 was inconsistent with the disclosure because the disclosure does not encompass plating methods other than electroplating. The rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, was based on the argument that Claims 17-24 were incomplete for omitting essential elements.

Claims 17-24 have been amended to overcome these grounds of rejection. For example, Claims 17 and 21 now recite "a current source disposed within said plating bath container," and method Claims 19 and 21 now recite "using said current source to convey an electrical current through said plating solution to said wafer." It is believed that these amendments overcome the Examiner's rejections.

Claim 18 depends from Claim 17. Claim 20 depends from Claims 19 and 17. Claims 22-24 depend from Claim 21. Therefore Claims 18, 20 and 22-24 are also allowable.

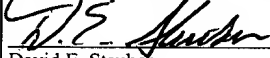
Claims 25 and 26 has been added, reciting, respectively, that "said actuator comprises a leadscrew" and "said actuator is controlled by an instruction generated by a controller." These limitations are supported by the specification at page 5, lines 32-35. Claims 25 and 26 depend from Claim 17 and are therefore allowable for the reasons stated above.

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Amdt dated October 4, 2003
Reply to Office Action of May 6, 2003.

For the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request allowance of Claims 17-24.
Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this response, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (408) 982-8200, ext. 1.


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Date: 10/4/03

Respectfully submitted,


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